

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending herein. The specification has been amended to correct matters of form. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

The PTO rejected all pending claims under §102(b) and/or §103(a) over Doi et al. (US 2005/0148676). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Doi et al. does not qualify as prior art under §102(b) in the present case, because Doi et al. was published July 7, 2005, whereas the present application is the National Phase of PCT/JP2004/010124, which was filed July 15, 2004, prior to the publication date of Doi et al.

Applicants would also note that Doi et al. does not qualify as prior art under §102(e), as Doi et al. is the National Phase of PCT/JP03/03278, which published *in Japanese* as WO/2003/078491 on September 25, 2003. Should the PTO deem that a rejection under §102(a) based on the '491 publication may be in order, Applicants will consider filing a verified English-translation of the original Japanese priority application (i.e., JP 2003-199983, filed July 22, 2003) to antedate the '491 publication.

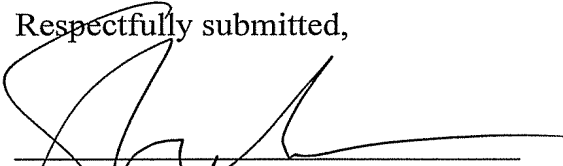
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of rejection asserted in the Office Action should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees
associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.
50-1446.

February 25, 2009
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/tlp

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320